

The Desert SUSTAINER

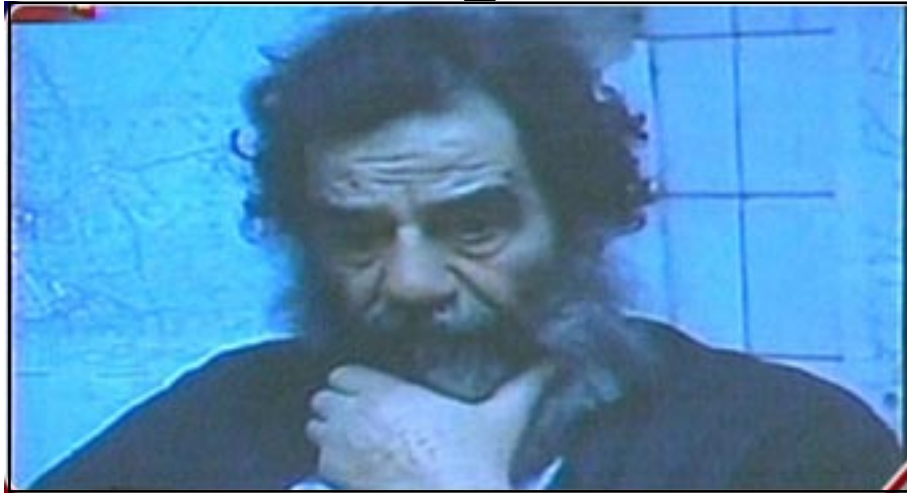
December 15, 2003

Serving the soldiers of LSA Anaconda and Sustainer Army Airfield

SPECIAL EDITION

“Ladies and gentlemen, we got him.” 4ID soldiers capture Saddam

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)- American forces captured a bearded Saddam Hussein, hiding in a hole in a farmhouse cellar near his hometown of Tikrit, the U.S. military announced Sunday. The arrest was carried out without a shot fired and was a victory for the U.S.-led coalition eight months after the fall of Baghdad.



Saddam Hussein on video before a thorough medical examination

“Ladies and gentlemen, we got him,” U.S. administrator L. Paul Bremer told a news conference. “The tyrant is a prisoner,” Bremer said.

Bremer said that Saddam was captured Saturday at 8:30 p.m. in a cellar in the town of Adwar, 10 miles from Tikrit, ending one of the most intense manhunts in history.

In the capital, radio stations played celebratory music, residents fired small arms in the air in celebration and others drove through the streets, shouting, “They got Saddam! They got Saddam!”

At the news conference announcing his capture, U.S. forces aired a video showing a bearded Saddam being examined by a doctor holding his mouth open with a tongue depressor, apparently to get a DNA sample.

Then a video was shown of Saddam after he was shaved.

Iraqi journalists in the audience stood, pointed and shouted “Death to

Saddam!” and “Down with Saddam!”

Saddam was being held at an undisclosed location and that U.S. authorities had not yet determined whether to hand him over to the Iraqis for trial, Sanchez said.

Forces from the 4th Infantry Division along with Special Forces captured Saddam, the U.S. military said. There were no shots fired or injuries in the raid, called “Operation Red Dawn,” said Lt. Gen. Richardo Sanchez.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair welcomed Saddam’s capture.

“This is very good news for the people of Iraq. It removes the shadow that has been hanging over them for too long of the nightmare of a return to the Saddam regime,” he said in a statement released by his office.

Trapped in the cellar, Saddam was in a six-to-eight-foot-deep “spider hole” that had been camouflaged with bricks and dirt.

The soldiers saw the hole, investigated and found him inside, Sanchez said.

The video showed an air vent and fan inside the hole to allow Saddam to remain hidden for an extended period.

Shop owners closed their doors, worried that all the shooting would make the streets unsafe.

Earlier in the day, rumors of the capture

sent people streaming into the streets of Kirkuk, a northern Iraqi city, firing guns in the air in celebration.

“We are celebrating like it’s a wedding,” said Kirkuk resident Mustapha Sheriff. “We are finally rid of that criminal.”

“This is the joy of a lifetime,” said Ali Al-Bashiri, another resident. “I am speaking on behalf of all the people that suffered under his rule.”

In Tikrit, U.S. soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division, the unit that is responsible for security in Saddam’s hometown, were smoking cigars after hearing the news of Saddam’s capture.

“This success brings closure to the Iraqi people. We now have final resolution. Saddam Hussein will never return to a position of power from which he can punish, terrorize, intimidate and exploit the Iraqi people as he did for more than 35 years,” Sanchez said.

Veterans greet returning troops

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Army News Service, Dec. 9, 2003) – With home hundreds of miles away in New York, Sgt. Adam Mulvey wasn't expecting any familiar faces meeting him when he arrived at Baltimore Washington International Airport to start two weeks of rest and recuperation.

Neither were Spc. Anthony Thomas and Sgt. Maurisah Hushma, both headed for Fort Campbell, Ky.

The Soldiers were caught a bit off guard when they were greeted, nonetheless, by several unfamiliar – but friendly – faces from the Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars.

As they came through the doors leading into the International corridor, William Self, department surgeon, stopped clapping long enough to shake each Soldier's hand. A short distance later, there were more greetings from Self's wife, Carolyn, and Raymond Shipley, department commander, who also handed out Uplink telephone calling cards.

The last stop in the welcoming line was Richard Udoff, District 7 commander, who beckoned service members to him with outstretched arms.

"Welcome Home! Where you headed to, Soldier?" said Udoff, repeating the greeting over and over again without ever losing the boom in his voice that drew service members to him. Knowing their destination, Udoff offered the quickest route to the right ticket counter or gate area.

"We thought we were coming through an empty airport," said Hushma, who is with the 3/101st Aviation, currently deployed near Mosul, Iraq. "It's nice to

see that people care."

Mulvey appreciated having veterans meeting and greeting, then shepherding the Soldiers on their way.

"I like the continuity of it," said Mulvey, a scout for the 1st Brigade, 63rd Armor Division in Kirkuk. "They went before us, now they're here for us when we come back. It makes me feel really good."

The feeling is mutual, the veterans said.

"At my age, I can't do much for the military," said Udoff, 72, who was a flight engineer in the Air Force from 1950-54. "But I can do this. It's very gratifying."

Shipley agreed.

"It makes me feel better knowing we succeed in getting these guys and gals out of here just a little faster," said Shipley, 75, who spent five years in the Army as an infantryman toward the end of World War II, followed by another eight years in the Air Force.

The group has missed just a few days since the R&R program brought the first plane load of Soldiers from Iraq Sept. 26. They are typically at the airport by 5 a.m., seven days a week.

For the Selfs, that means getting up at 3 a.m. for the 40-mile trip from their home near Frederick, Md.

"When that alarm rings, I think 'Oh, it's just too early!'" said Carolyn Self, 71. "But once the feet hit the ground and I get moving, it's OK."



Richard Udoff, VFW District 7 commander, greets Soldiers coming into BWI Airport on rest and recuperation leave. Udoff directed soldiers to ticket counters or gates in an effort to get them to their destinations as quickly as possible

All are motivated by the same belief that Soldiers need to know how much folks back home appreciate their service.

"My husband was a Vietnam vet. He wasn't welcomed back," said Carolyn Self. "It's very important that no one else is treated that way again."

At the airport, Self's role is to keep the waiting families informed about the process their Soldier is going through before coming through the doors. He gets them pumped, encouraging them to yell, clap, and make plenty of loud noise when the doors open. It's part of the reason his wife refers to him as "The Mouth."

Loud is good, Soldiers said. Many returned the greetings with happy hooahs.

"I could hear it before I even got to the doors," said Spc. Carlos Garcia, of the 18th Personnel Service Battalion of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. "I wondered what all the noise was. Then I came through, and Wow! It was so cool."

TMC CLOSURE

The troop medical clinic will be closed on the following days except for emergency - life, limb or eyesight - situations:

Christmas - Thursday, Dec. 25, and New Year's - Thursday, Jan. 1. For more information contact Maj. Douglas Olney at 318-528-1413.

NEW PX HOURS

The Logistical Support Area Anaconda Post Exchange has new hours of operation. The facility will be open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. The PX will be open these hours seven days a week. The new hours provide extended shopping hours and will help facilitate soldiers shopping for the holiday season.

RESERVE ID CARDS

Due to units being extended, many reservist's ID cards are set to expire. Units confronting this issue should contact Staff Sgt. Jonathon Trussell, 90th Personnel Support Battalion, to set up an appointment to renew their ID cards. Staff Sgt. Trussell can be reached at 551-9903. Amendment orders are needed for new IDs.

CONTACT US

The Desert Sustainer is a newsletter compiled printed and published by the 3rd Corps Support Command Public Affairs Office. Please send any comments, suggestions, submissions or story ideas to us by email at grant.calease@us.army.mil, or call 558-2053, or stop by Bldg. 4137.

Oklahoma's White wins close Heisman race

NEW YORK — The scars, the operations, the grueling rehab: It was all worth it for Jason White.

A year after knee injuries almost ended his career, White capped his comeback by receiving the greatest individual honor in college football, the Heisman Trophy.

"Heck, yeah, it makes it worthwhile!" White said. "Going through that rehab you never would have thought that you'd get a Heisman out of the deal. I'd go through it



Oklahoma quarterback Jason White was awarded the Heisman Trophy Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003 at the Yale Club in New York.

all again."

White provided an inspirational ending to the feel-good story that helped carry Oklahoma to the Bowl Championship Series title game.

As White accepted the award, he looked out at his parents, who helped persuade him to keep going.

Ron White beamed proudly, knowing the work ethic he instilled by making his son shovel concrete as a child helped make Jason a winner. Sue White was in tears.

"Last year about this time, I was sitting at home watching the Heisman and thought how neat it would be to be there, to be one of the finalists," White said. "I never thought, after two surgeries, that I'd be here."

The award was well deserved for the 23-year-old senior. White threw 40 touchdown passes and led the third-ranked Sooners to 12 straight wins to open the season as he beat out Pittsburgh receiver Larry Fitzgerald by 128 points.

White, The Associated Press Player of the Year, led the nation in passing efficiency, completing 64 percent of his passes for 3,744 yards and only eight interceptions.

White beat Fitzgerald 1,481-1,353.



Jason White finished the season with 40 touchdowns compared to 8 interceptions as the Sooners finished 12-1.

Mississippi quarterback Eli Manning was third with 710 points, and Michigan running back Chris Perry was next with 341.

"His emergence as a great, great football player is the story of college football," White's coach Bob Stoops said. "The biggest difference in our team is that Jason White is the quarterback. It ought to be pretty obvious."

It turned out it was to the Heisman voters.

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE		WESTERN CONFERENCE	
ATLANTIC		MIDWEST	
76ers	—	Mavericks	—
Celtics	—	Nuggets	0.5
Nets	0.5	Spurs	0.5
Heat	3.5	Grizzlies	1
Knicks	3.5	Rockets	1
Wizards	4.5	T-wolves	1
Magic	8	Jazz	1.5
CENTRAL		PACIFIC	
Pacers	—	Lakers	—
Hornets	1	Kings	1
Pistons	4	Blazers	6
Raptors	4.5	Sonics	6
Bucks	7	Warriors	7
Bulls	11	Clippers	8
Hawks	11.5	Suns	10.5
Cavs	11.5		

NCAA Men's Basketball Top 20

1. Florida
2. UCONN
3. Missouri
4. Duke
5. Kansas
6. Texas
7. North Carolina
8. Kentucky
9. Arizona
10. Georgia Tech
11. Oklahoma
12. St. Joseph's
13. Stanford
14. Illinois
15. Wake Forest
16. Purdue
17. Gonzaga
18. Cincinnati
19. Syracuse
20. Pittsburgh

NFL Scores

Raiders (4-10)	20	Chargers (3-11)	21
Ravens (8-6)	12	Packers (8-6)	38
Buccaners (7-7)	16	Bears (6-8)	13
Texans (6-8)	3	Vikings (8-6)	10
Seahawks (8-6)	22	Jets (6-8)	6
Rams (11-3)	27	Steelers (5-9)	0
Redskins (5-9)	0	Patriots (12-2)	27
Cowboys (9-5)	27	Jaguars (4-10)	13
Giants (4-10)	7	Bills (6-8)	26
Saints (7-7)	45	Titans (10-4)	28
Cardinals (3-11)	17	49ers (6-8)	38
Panthers (9-5)	20	Bengals (8-6)	41
Chiefs (12-2)	45	Browns (4-10)	20
Lions (4-10)	17	Broncos (9-5)	23
Colts (11-3)	38	Eagles (10-3)	MNF
Falcons (3-11)	7	Dolphins (8-5)	